



## FAQ

### Rescinding Prince George 2022 BC Summer Games Vaccination Policy

April 28, 2022

#### **Why was the vaccination policy rescinded?**

With the Gatherings and Events Order being left to expire on April 8, 2022, there is no longer a requirement to show proof of vaccination across the province. The BC Games Society has chosen to rescind its vaccination policy requiring proof of vaccination for all participants at the 2022 BC Summer Games for two main reasons:

#### **Exemptions:**

The Gatherings and Events Order required exemptions to be vetted by the Provincial Health Officer and were granted only in limited situations related to personal health. With the Order now expired, exemptions for participants are required to be considered by the BC Games Society for all protected grounds. This opens the door much more broadly for unvaccinated participants to be able to attend the Games with an exemption and requires the BC Games Society to manage the exemption process.

#### **Data Management:**

The Gatherings and Events Order allowed for the collection of the BC Vaccine Card with the consent of individuals, a necessary operational component of the Games to be able to screen participants prior to their arrival in the host community. With the Order now expired, the BC Games Society cannot collect this information prior to participants' arrival at the Games, meaning we cannot ensure participants would meet a proof of vaccination requirement until they are already at the Games.

#### **Is there concern for the health and safety of participants coming to the Games?**

The health and safety of our participants is always forefront in our planning and is the focus of all operational planning. With respect to COVID-19, we continue to support the public health guidance that individuals utilize their [personal toolkit](#) to support their health at the Games, including vaccines, masks, and handwashing, among others. Ultimately, participants attend the Games at their own risk as outlined in the [BC Games waiver](#).

#### **What will the BC Games Society do if there is an outbreak during the Games?**

We are working closely with Northern Health to develop an outbreak response plan. In the event of an outbreak, the host society will work with Northern Health to implement appropriate protocols to manage the situation.

#### **What if a participant gets sick at the Games and can't travel home?**

This is a concern at all Games, as illnesses can occur at any time. In the case of COVID-19, BC Games protocols will be put into place to ensure participants are supported until it is safe for them to travel home.

#### **Are masks required to be worn at the Games?**

Masks are one of the [personal tools](#) available to everyone at the Games to support their health. There could be scenarios where a mask is required to be worn. For example, please be reminded that Transport Canada requires [mandatory mask wearing](#) while in airports and on flights. Participants, volunteers, guests, and spectators are expected to wear a mask in Games settings where one is required.

**Why do those participants who are flying to the Games need to be vaccinated?**

Participants in Zone 1 (Kootenays) and Zone 6 (Vancouver Island-Central Coast) are being provided with transportation to the host community on charter flights. Our charter flights are in place to allow those participants who live a great distance from the host community, where transportation by bus would be prohibitive, to travel to the Games at no additional cost. These charter flights are under the purview of Transport Canada, which requires [all travellers ages 12 and older show proof of vaccination](#).

**Can a participant from Zone 1 or 6 who is unable to be vaccinated still attend?**

Participants have the option of choosing to travel to the Games on their own, at their own cost. Alternatively, participants may request to the Provincial Advisor for their sport that they travel from a neighbouring zone where bus transportation has been provided. For example, someone in Zone 1 (Kootenays) could select a pick-up point in Zone 2 (Thompson-Okanagan). Transportation plans for each participant must be submitted as part of the participant registration process, which is managed by Provincial Advisors and Zone Reps for each sport. The BC Games registration deadline is Monday, June 20, 2022. Talk to your Provincial Advisor or Zone Rep before June 20 if you wish to take this option.

Unvaccinated participants may continue to travel on BC Games charter flights provided they meet the exemption conditions [as outlined by Transport Canada](#) or are under age 12.